

St Michael and All Angels Belmont Abbey



PARISH NEWSLETTER

7 May 2017

4th Sunday of Easter

PARISH PRIEST

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The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Each year on this Sunday we reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, devotedly taking care of his flock. The earliest Christians had seen Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Jewish dream of a good shepherd. They also wished to include the Gentiles as part of God's flock. The Gospel text offers us both comfort and challenge. The comforting good news is that Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us, provides for us and loves us. The challenge is that we should be good shepherds to those entrusted to our care.

The Church invites us to honour the vocation of all Christians given at baptism. May we who have dedicated our lives to God through the vocation of marriage, priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life, and the single life remain faithful to our commitments. May those who are discerning their life's vocation listen to the grace of God to guide them. This year's theme is ***"We are God's people"***.

The second collection today is towards supporting the training of secular priests in the diocese. There will be a collection for our own monastic training fund next week.

Fr Nicholas

Last Sunday's	1 st Collection	£280.73
	Standing Orders	£412.50
The 1 st collection goes towards the maintenance of our Abbey church and parish, diocesan levies and other related costs.		
	2 nd Collection	£168.62
The 2 nd collection is reserved for specific charitable causes or appeals and our own Outreach projects as detailed in the Newsletter. Last week was for: Parish Outreach. Thank You!		

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Parish Outreach

This month our second collections are essentially the mandatory ones for May: Priests Training Funds, World Communications Day and the annual mission appeal which this year will be made by the Verona Fathers on Sunday 28th May.

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Rota of Ministries

A new rota is due from 21 May up to and including 3 Sept 2017. I would be grateful if you could let me have your **non-available dates by 11 May** at the very latest. Please contact me on frangrant235@btinternet.com or on Hfd 266307. Many thanks for your help.

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Fr. Simon thanks parishioners for their prayers and best wishes. He is back at Belmont being looked after in the monastery infirmary. Hopefully his leg will heal quickly so he can resume his normal duties at Weobley as soon as possible.

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Election 2017 - Choosing which candidate to vote for can be a tricky exercise, especially when none of the candidates meet **all** our own criteria for different policies. SPUC are urging its members to question candidates regarding their position on abortion and euthanasia. John Hargaden is trying to organise a small group to meet with candidates to put these questions to them. Please contact John for more information.

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Our Lady's Lunch Club

There is a meeting for all volunteers on Monday 8th May at 7.00pm in Our Lady's parish room to finalise all the practical arrangements. A training session is also being arranged for Monday 15th May from 7-9pm also at Our Lady's, on the challenges and difficulties of ministering to those in need, how to stay safe, and the issues that many of those in need are facing. This training is being given by a local

Consultancy firm run by two retired police officers. All volunteers are asked to attend if possible.



The month of May is traditionally known as "*the month of Mary*" and is dedicated to honouring the most holy Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. During this month we remember that Mary is indeed "*blessed among women*." She is indeed *theotokos* - which literally translated means "The One who bore God" or "the God bearer". St. Gregory of Nazianzus wrote "If one does not acknowledge Mary as *Theotokos*, he is estranged from God."

Catholics make so much of Mary because we make so much of the Divine Person she conceived, bore, nurtured, taught, raised and proclaimed, and for whom she suffered the grief of a mother's loss of a child. Catholics also make so much of Mary because her life is filled with lessons of discipleship. While Jesus is our Master, Mary is His model disciple.

Mary is also our model of prayer, praise and meditation. After her cousin Elizabeth confirms the great things God is doing in her life, she sings forth His praise in what is now known as the "Magnificat"... "*my soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*"



Forthcoming Marriages at Belmont Abbey

- Sat 13th May Louise Spencer & Aaron White
- Sat 20th May Hayley Gethins & Piotr Gass
- Sat 10th June Matthew Corrigan & Esther Rich



Belmont Fete

The Fete is only 6 weeks away. We would be very grateful if you could start bringing in items for the Grand Tombola, books, bric-a-brac, toys and clothes: these should be washed and ironed and in very good condition. We would grateful if the gardeners among you would grow some plants for the plant stall and of course we need bottles for the very popular Bottle Stall. We need about 400 + bottles so if you could start bringing them in, it would be much appreciated. Thank you for your help!



Please pray for George Farr who will be baptised this afternoon. We wish him and his family every blessing on this wonderful occasion.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 May
Torchlight Procession
9:00 pm

16 May
Tea & Chat
Parish Hall 2:30 pm

20 May
First Holy Communion Class
10:30

19 May
Church Cleaning
9:00 am

17 June
Belmont Abbey Fete
2:00 pm



More information about **THE MARCH FOR LIFE** which will take place in Birmingham on the the 20th May. A small group of us from Hereford are planning to join it and you would be very welcome if you would like to come with us. We will be meeting at the railway station at 10. 15 am (the train leaves at 10.39 am). There will be a LIFE stall in Victoria Square from 12 noon until 4 pm, the March will leave from the stall and we will walk

through the city streets. Lynne (01432 371654) and Josephine.



Centenary of the apparitions Our Lady at Fatima

This centenary will reach its climax with the visit of Pope Francis to Fatima on 13 May. Here in England and Wales the organisers of the World Apostolate of Fatima are engaged in a Visitation of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and its new Golden Crown to churches and Cathedrals throughout the United Kingdom. This began at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 18 February. The Visitation will be visiting Cardiff this weekend but then travels to Hereford to be with us here at Belmont on Wednesday for the annual torchlight procession in honour of Our Lady



Prayer for Vocations

Jesus Christ, Guide and Shepherd of your people, touch the hearts of our young people, that they may, for the love of you, give their lives in the service of the Church. Renew the hearts of priests, that they may model their lives on the mystery of the Cross, and imitate the Sacred Mysteries they celebrate at the Altar. Strengthen our families that they may generously support those of their sons whom you call to serve you as priests. Amen.



SFX FILM NIGHTS

presents the

Award-Winning

“THE LETTERS” (PG)

The untold story of Mother Teresa

Where: SFX Hall: When: Friday 26
May: Time 7:15 pm. All Welcome, free
admissions and refreshments.



Homily

*“The one who enters through the gate
is the shepherd of the flock.”*

Illustration

The priest was a Yorkshire man and he was visiting his family in Yorkshire for a few days. While there he saw a very special postcard and decided to send it to his friend who lived in Scotland. The friend was originally from Lancashire, the neighbouring county to Yorkshire in the north of England. The people of those two counties have enjoyed friendly rivalry down the years and they share a northern accent, which may sound similar to outsiders but is subtly different. These two men, the Yorkshire man and the Lancashire man, were great friends. One had remained in the priesthood while the other, having kept his faith but left the priesthood, was now married and working as a

family mediator in Scotland. Both men, in their different ways, were pastors, caring for sheep, for people who need love and guidance and tender watchfulness.

One morning the postman arrived and that special postcard came through the letterbox into the hallway of that Scottish home. The friend picked up the card, looked at the picture on the front and roared with laughter. The picture, taken in the Yorkshire countryside, showed a farmer’s notice, nailed to a fencepost, and giving warning to all drivers on that road. The notice said, spelt out just as it might sound in that distinctive Yorkshire accent, “TEK CARE LAMBS ONT ROAD”. The language might be blunt Yorkshire but the sentiment was as tender as could be.

Gospel Teaching

In today’s Gospel Jesus gives us warning about people who have no care for others except to take advantage of them and to exploit them for their own selfish purposes. He says anyone who gets into the sheepfold and does not use the gate is up to no good. The gate is the open entrance into the fold where sheep safely graze. The gate is the pathway of honest approach. If you approach people in a sly or sideways manner

you are up to mischief and people will have every reason to mistrust you.

A true shepherd uses the gate. The sheep see the shepherd and know they are safe. The shepherd's voice is familiar and to be trusted and the sheep feel secure. Every good parent or guardian knows this. Children look to those who care for them. Vulnerable people look to their carers to feel secure and safe from harm. They stay close beside them to guide and to encourage.

The story Jesus tells is especially suited for people in positions of pastoral care. Sometimes we find pastors who are simply career people, out for themselves and with no real concern for the sheep in their charge. But what applies to priests and pastors in the Church equally applies to any of us who have roles of responsibility towards others in life. Jesus sometimes had occasion to remark on religious leaders, whose only interest was in taking the best seats in the synagogue and in being greeted obsequiously in the marketplace, people who liked to wear the gear and secretly robbed widows. In such cases Jesus could be as blunt as any Yorkshire man.

our souls, is also the innocent lamb who was led to the slaughter. Speaking about this, St Peter, another blunt-speaking man, describes to us how the Lord in his suffering left us an example to follow. He never lied. He never retaliated to insults. He never threatened, even when he was being tortured. Peter was mightily impressed by this behaviour. The Lamb of God went to his death teaching us to be wise and gentle with one another. His wounds heal our ills.

Peter's call to us today is stark in its message: "Save yourselves from this perverse generation." Every age has its evils and the exploitation of the innocents has raised its ugly features in our time, in the world and in the Church. "What must we do?" The people asked Peter. He told them straight. Repent of your sins and be converted to the Lord once more. If you do, the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will find yourself enjoying the role of being a shepherd to the sheep. The Spirit helps us to become like Christ Jesus in our own world. It is a most magnificent vocation, to love and to care for others. Or, as that Yorkshire farmer said: "TEK CARE LAMBS ONT ROAD".



Application

Jesus, who is the great shepherd of

Ministers, etc. For next <u>Sunday 14 May 5 Easter Year A - Cycle 1</u>			
	08:30	9:30	11:00
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomers	Kath Parry	Anne Stapleton	Ross & Anne Williams
Sacristan			Tony Archer
1 st Reading	Fran Grant	Lucy Zammit	Jennifer Hackman
2 nd Reading	Josie Gwizdala		Gabrielle Stanley
Bidding Prayers	Julia Davey		Jacqui Corrigan
Offertory	Hayes Family	Anthea Morton-S & Menna McBain	
Extraordinary Ministers	Frances Dees & Fran Smallwood		Monica Russell & Margaret Evans
Next Sunday - Belmont Training Fund			

Anniversaries	CHILDREN'S LITURGY	
	8.30 Children's Liturgy - temporarily cancelled	
	07-May	Pat Wood & Pauline Gill
	14-May	Jackie King & Monica Russell
	21-May	A Morawiecki & Rob Blackburn
	28-May	No Children's Liturgy
	04-Jun	No Children's Liturgy

These are noted below. Our week starts on Sunday- the anniversaries include all those which occurred on the Sunday date to the following Saturday.

Please pray for all who have died: **May they rest in peace.** (W/C 7 May)

Deaths: Sister Clare, Mary Jo Donnelly, Maureen Toner and Eduards Sardiko

Anniversaries: Vera Offler, James Sterckx, Dom Gregory Buisseret OSB, Leslie Hawes, Peter Lightbound, John Malone, Brian Smith, Margaret Veale, Tony Lewis, Owen Connely, Moses Holmes, Peggy Hill, Marjory Reynolds and Leslie Twissel.

The Sick: Please pray for: Chris Rogers, Patrick Walesby, Peter Draper, Fr Simon, Ruby Chandler-Marsh, Rachel George, Norma Naudain, Ann Thomas, Mary Smith, Dominique Wetz, Marie Williams, Sally Hayward, Lillian Allsopp, Kenny Hanna, Shirley Brymer, Edward Medlicott, Sr Philipa, Elaine White, Sue Rogers, Joanne Savory, Sr Catherine, Vincent Hanna and Sadie Bowyer.

Belmont Abbey Parish is part of Belmont Abbey Mission Trust (Registered Charity - 226277)

Liturgy for Sunday 7th May 2017 *Cycle A; Weekdays: Cycle 1*

<p>4th Sunday Of Easter</p>	<p>Entrance: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.</p> <p>Acclamation: We proclaim your Death O Lord...</p> <p>Communion: The Good Shepherd has risen who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.</p>
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Principal Celebrants, Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, etc.

	08:30 am	9:30 am	11:00 am
Celebrant	Fr Nicholas		Fr Nicholas
Welcomer	Liz Norman	Nickerson Family	Brenda Sherwood & Maureen Stacey
Sacristan			Rob Corrigan
1 st Reading	Ann Jackson	Clare Nickerson	Niamh Coyle
2 nd Reading	Mary Hayes		Pat Wood
Bidding Prayer	Bill Jackson		Margaret Rose
Offertory	Parish Children	Paul Nickhold & Lucy Zammit	
Extra-Ordinary Minister(s)	Seamus Hayes & Kath Parry		Chris Moore & Gabrielle Stanley
Mass Intention	Tom & Vera Dawson RIP	The Parish	Norman Dykes RIP

Second Collection - Diocesan Priests Training Fund

Food Bank Delivery: Ray & Margaret Rose

<i>What's On for the week</i>	
Mon	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Tue	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am
Wed	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Midday Mass in Oratory : Torchlight Procession at 9:00 pm
Thu	Venerable Abbots of Cluny: Mass at 8:00 am
Fri	Easter Feria: Mass at 8:00 am: Exposition at 11, Midday Mass in Oratory
Sat	Our Lady of Fatima: Mass at 8:00 am: Reconciliation at 10:00 am